

STATEWIDE RAC MEETING

November 8-9, 2001
Elko Convention Center
Elko, Nevada

Thursday, November 8

List of attendees on page 25.

**A copy of each attachment is listed in the text of, or at the end of these minutes is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Nevada State Office of the BLM. Persons desiring to view attachments should contact Debra Kolkman at (775) 861-6586.*

Welcome and Introductions - Bob Abbey, BLM Nevada State Director called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Abbey welcomed all attending RAC members and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Abbey asked one member from each RAC to report on this past year's accomplishments.

Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC - Jerry Helton, Vice Chair

- Four RAC meetings were held this last year. Accomplishments include:
 - ▶ Participated in developing Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) strategic goals and recommendations for land acquisitions, capital improvements, Multi-Species Habitat Conservation (MSHC);
- Advised BLM on OHV guidelines;
- Advised BLM on permitting process of power plants to be located in Clark and Lincoln counties. Sixteen new facilities have been proposed;
- Discussed wild horse and burro populations;
- Tour of proposed Ivanpah airport lands;
- Interaction with Forest Service supervisor Tom Kuekes;
- Discussed Clark County land exchanges; and
- Toured Round Mountain gold mine.

Northeastern Great Basin RAC - Vince Garcia, Chair

- Wild Horse and Burro Standards and Guidelines developed in FY 2000 were approved;
- Discussed updated 3809 hardrock mining regulations;
- Discussed weed free hay in Nevada, noxious weeds on Nevada rangelands, and vegetation management guidelines;
- Working on OHV guidelines for BLM (would like to thank Jon Muller for all his help);
- Discussed plan amendments with respective field offices;

- Reviewed Falcon-Gonder powerline application;
- Working with BLM on the California Interpretive Center in Elko;
- Working with BLM on sage grouse guidelines (would like to thank Nevada stewardship group and Leta Collard for their valuable help);
- Advised BLM on proposed pinyon and juniper (P&J) guidelines in Ely and toured sites around Ely; and
- Toured quarry where Native Americans harvested arrowheads.

Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC - Jacques Etchegoyhen, Chair

- Examination of Knot Creek Allotment and overnight stay; discussion of relocation of road in area; and
- Field trip into Pine Nut Mountains to look at various resource issues.

Abbey presented **BLM's accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2001** to the RACs. (See attachment 1.)

- Fire rehabilitation - more than 200,000 acres that burned this year are scheduled for rehabilitation.
- Great Basin Restoration Initiative is the umbrella to improve our public lands by implementing such things as vegetation treatments, sage grouse conservation, and the President's Fire Plan.
 - ▶ 18,570 acres were treated to control invasive species; 1,100 acres were treated to restore sage grouse habitat; and 1,249 acres were treated to reduce hazardous vegetation buildup near towns and built-up areas.
- National Wild Horse and Burro Strategic Plan - Thanks to the efforts of all three Nevada RACs and many others, Nevada received an increase of \$2 million for Fiscal Year 2001.
 - ▶ 17 additional appropriate management levels were set in the western states; and
 - ▶ 6,238 horses and 130 burros were gathered in the West.
- National Fire Plan - BLM Nevada received \$25 million (a substantial increase) to reduce the risk of fire; \$850,000 was allocated to state and local fire agencies.
 - ▶ Additional funding was used to hire additional support to fight fires and to help avoid big fires;
 - ▶ Hired liaison to co-locate with Nevada Association of Counties as we need to communicate important information about fire—we have more common goals than we have differences;
 - ▶ Built new fire stations in certain areas and located a new hot shot crew in Elko;
 - ▶ Received additional funding for communities at risk and planning for future actions. Due to dry conditions throughout Nevada, we are all still at risk for fires; and
 - ▶ 93 percent of wildfires in Nevada were contained before they reached 100 acres; attributed to initial attack efforts. BLM is very happy with the progress it is making with its partners.

- Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project - It is important to protect area in good condition and treat those areas that have been adversely affected by over growth of pinyon-juniper.
- Experimented with Oust herbicide but there is an issue in Idaho with Oust adversely affecting adjacent agricultural crops. Nevada will look at Oust projects on a case-by-case basis.
- Mechanical treatment of vegetative areas to ward off fires. Over 1,800 acres have been treated for invasive species. Some areas have such a problem with invasive species that they have no chance for success.
- Restoring sage grouse habitat. Abbey credits Governor Guinn's efforts to bring all agencies together to work on the sage grouse habitat issue. He put together a team comprised of adverse interests, and BLM is proud to be a partner. Regional habitat conservation teams are forming.
 - ▶ Interim management guidelines were issued to BLM offices for sage brush habitat. BLM will operate under these guidelines until the regional plans are completed.
- Energy production - One of biggest surprises of 2001 was the big demand for energy.
 - ▶ Received 15 applications for power plant support facilities (plus five additional applications in the last couple of months);
 - ▶ Nevada has sources for alternative fuels such as geothermal and wind resources. Tremendous workload associated with these demands;
 - ▶ 26 geothermal leases have been received; and
 - ▶ 1,099,585 acres have been offered for oil and gas leases this year.
- Abandoned Mine Lands - Nevada has about 300,000 sites.
 - ▶ Usually mitigate about 200 sites per year. This year we mitigated over 300 with lots of help from our partners (industry and the state) to reduce safety hazards.
- Land use planning - With assistance from RAC subgroup, BLM has been very active planning for the new Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA). Everyone is welcome to help with the planning process.
 - ▶ Other planning efforts BLM has been working on: Nellis Air Force Base Natural Resource Management Plan (RMP); Fallon NAS RMP; Washoe and Douglas County joint plans completed; and completion of Red Rock Canyon NCA General Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Lincoln County Lands Act - Required BLM to offer 6,500 acres for sale within one year. BLM received several protests and appeals for offering the land for sale. Those appeals have not been resolved to date, as BLM is waiting for Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) to make a decision. If IBLA upholds BLM's decision, lands will be offered again.

- Ivanpah Airport Land Transfer Act - BLM is working with Clark County to complete survey work. The new airport will bring additional needs for residences and support facilities. An EIS will be needed. BLM expects perfected application by February 2002. Once received, BLM will do an appraisal then Clark County will pay fair market value for the land.
- Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) - At the most recent sale, 26 parcels (126.2 acres) were sold for \$13.6 million.
- Volunteers made a great contribution in helping BLM manage the public's resources. Preliminary hours from just two field offices total over 49,000 hours. This total already exceeds last year's total by 6,000 hours. People do care and want to help.

Abbey opened up discussion for questions.

- What types of remediation is BLM using for noxious weeds? Each field office manager gave a run down of what they have been doing for their weed districts, which includes coordinating with their partners in all endeavors.
- One RAC member vented her frustration with Federal Register notices. The subgroup for the Black Rock NCA is having trouble getting a Federal Register notice published concerning a meeting they want to hold. Would it help for the RACs to contact the Secretary of the Interior? Abbey stated he understands their frustration in getting approval to publish the Black Rock notices for public meetings and he appreciates the offer, but he believes the notice for the Black Rock meeting will be out shortly. Winnumucca Field Manager, Terry Reed, has been very successful in working with the subgroup.
- Are the 300,000 abandoned mine land sites open? Tom Leshendok, Deputy State Director for Minerals Management, answered yes. These are old abandoned sites from the 1800s. BLM is fencing or backfilling to prevent accidents. Backfilling requires more time and effort. Industry has been very helpful by volunteering equipment such as bulldozers and getting some of their people to help with the work.
- Are there any existing mining claims in the Black Rock NCA? If so, what will happen to them. Abbey commented that there are some claims which are subject to valid existing rights. Claimants will have to file a plan of operations. BLM would conduct a validity exam.
- One RAC member thanked BLM for all of their efforts. What concerns her is the spread of weeds. In looking at charts, she has several questions. At the rate of weed reduction for fire restoration, is there any way to minimize the impact of fire? Is a hot fire worse than a cooler fire? Abbey said the rehabilitation plan is a bit optimistic in that there is always the potential for things to go wrong.
 - Abbey asked field managers if they are keeping a data base on their rehabilitation efforts. He also asked the managers if they were keeping up with the spread of noxious weeds in areas that

have been burned. All managers answered a resounding “No.” They have completed monitoring for the 1999 and 2000 fire seasons. They are not getting the revegetation they expected on many areas. Hankins stated that Elko district has over 2,000 infestation sites. Her staff is doing more treatments each year, but they still are not able to keep up with the weeds. Morse stated that the Las Vegas Field Office needs to be more aggressive. They purchased equipment to effectively get rid of salt cedar. BLM is pushing prescribed fire because cooler fires do less damage. BLM Nevada has some projects like the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project to help tackle these exact issues. We all need to focus on what we want to achieve. BLM will be spending more money and will be dedicating more resources on the spread of noxious weeds all over the state.

- Frank-Churchill stated that wind energy is controversial for the Indians. The proposed wind energy project at the Nevada Test Site project will destroy many sacred sites. Abbey explained that the Nevada Test Site proposal was submitted to the Department of Energy (DOE) to build a wind energy farm. Even though it is a clean source of energy, all agencies need to respect all peoples’ concerns. DOE is doing an EIS and these concerns should be addressed in it. They have heard the concerns of Indian tribes, and that is why they are doing an EIS. Abbey does not know the outcome, but hopes DOE will take into account concerns raised and alternative ways to do these projects. BLM has had very little participation in the study as these are “withdrawn lands.” BLM asserted themselves that they needed to participate; however, DOE has the lead. BLM is working very diligently to make sure all concerns are addressed.
 - ▶ Indians are also concerned with noxious weeds and the chemicals used to treat the weeds. Ground squirrels consume chemicals from eating the plants and then Indians consume these animals. Abbey stated that we should all be aware of the effects of herbicides on people, animals and other plants. There are weeds in other states that have taken over vast areas that have not taken hold in Nevada. If we don’t keep abreast of the problem, Nevada could very easily be invaded by more noxious weeds that could destroy more of our rangelands.

BLM Nevada Five-Year Legacy Plan & the Great Basin Restoration Initiative - State Director Abbey presented “Achieving the Vision.” (See attachment 2.)

- Public lands are managed on behalf of the American public. BLM doesn’t take this role lightly. We appreciate the work of the RACs as BLM doesn’t have all the answers. We are always asking questions and seeking advice. We all want to do the right thing and make the right decision.

- **The BLM's strategic goals and priorities for Fiscal Year 2002:**
 - ▶ Maintain healthy ecosystems;
 - ▶ Improve the way we do business;
 - ▶ Promote collaborative leadership;
 - ▶ Serve current and future publics; and
 - ▶ Improve human resource management

- National Priorities are:
 - ▶ Energy, minerals, rights-of-way;
 - ▶ Urban interface and community support;
 - ▶ Critical resources protection; and
 - ▶ Special Areas

- **BLM Nevada's Vision**
 - ▶ Large, open, natural spaces;
 - ▶ Orderly corridors;
 - ▶ Wilderness, not wilderness study areas;
 - ▶ Consolidate land ownership;
 - ▶ Dispose of appropriate lands;
 - ▶ Building strong, safe communities;
 - ▶ Value Western lifestyle and Native American traditions;
 - ▶ Strengthen ethics among users;
 - ▶ Healthy, productive ecosystems;
 - ▶ Increase reliance on alternative energy sources, raw materials, food and recreation; and
 - ▶ Internally, use better business practices to access technology, provide customer service, work with our partners, and to be more productive. BLM needs to accomplish work on the ground. We need to focus on our goals. We need to have measurable and realistic goals. We have dedicated employees that work long hours—we need to stay focused.

- Five-year strategy (reasonable accomplishments) - **Our Legacy to Nevada**
 - ▶ Acquisitions and disposals. We need some balance in acquisition and disposal of lands. Through SNPLMA and the Baca bill, revenues can be used to acquire sensitive lands. We need to pay attention to land use plans that already identify lands for disposal or acquisition.
 - ▶ BLM Nevada is proposing 20,000 acres of land for disposal (lands already identified) each year. By the end of fiscal year 2006, we hope to have offered 100,000 acres of public land for disposal.
 - ▶ Land use plans have identified over 800,000 acres for disposal. This is a public process and there are opportunities for comments and appeals throughout the process.

- BLM needs to do a better job in automating lands and minerals records. We need to consider a web-based system accessible by customers. Our hope is to have all lands and minerals records fully automated by 2006 and to have a 95 percent accuracy rate.
- BLM Nevada's goal is to make known hazardous sites safe by fencing or backfilling all known AML sites near recreation sites and population centers by 2006.
- Great Basin Restoration Initiative - The goal is to successfully rehabilitate areas destroyed by fire or weeds, and protect those areas that have not been affected by fire or by the invasion of weeds or noxious plants. One-third of the acreage managed by federal agencies have been adversely affected. This is unacceptable. We need to devote people and resources to turn that around. We hope to treat one million acres by 2006.
- Viable herds of healthy wild horses and burros on our public lands. BLM Nevada wants to replace the current wild horse and burro facility at Palomino Valley with a facility that also has visitor and interpretive capabilities. BLM has been talking with some of the wild horse groups and the State about this concept and about ways to fund a new site.
 - ▶ By 2006, have all Herd Management Areas at the appropriate management level, improve herd distribution and adopt more Nevada horses in Nevada.
- Native seed - Nevada is one of the biggest users of native seeds. Sources for seeds are in WY, ID, and UT. No source is available in Nevada. By 2006, develop a fully operational seed program in Nevada, which includes meeting the needs within the state. Success of BLM is enhanced by growing seeds closer to home.
- Walker Lake - BLM has served an important role in bringing up the discussion of having sufficient quantities of water to maintain recreation and fishery needs at Walker Lake. BLM hopes to stabilize the water levels at Walker Lake by 2006. Carson City Field Office has been working on this goal. An EIS will be out in December. It provides realistic alternatives that the public will be pleased with. Abbey credits Governor Guinn with participating in discussions.
- Land Use Authorizations - Managing public lands for multiple uses is a great challenge. Goal is to issue permits emphasizing performance-based stipulations. We need to focus attention on stipulations that make a difference, then monitor. Does water play an important part of that? Yes, water is a consideration because wildlife and other things rely on it. BLM needs to address this issue as a federal land management agency. Lands are identified for disposal through land use planning documents. Some plans are specific in their disposal areas, other are not. RAC members can bring this issue up with each field office manager.
- BLM is establishing goals pertaining to environmental education with the Outside Las Vegas Foundation. As stewards of your public lands, we want to bring the public lands to the people by

offering environmental education programs via satellite downlinks. Participation is through interactive education with children in Nevada at the Oliver Ranch outside of Las Vegas.

- Business Practices and Human Resources - By 2003, the Battle Mountain Field Office will take on an enhanced training mission. Battle Mountain has many jewels to manage within the area. BLM Nevada's hope is to serve the entire BLM by providing an excellent training ground for employees.
- Establish a Field Office at Tonopah. This will help streamline the decision process and achieve operational efficiencies. Nye county is split into four jurisdictional units. BLM, Nevada is re-visiting this split to see if they cannot realign some of the boundaries. Abbey hopes RACs will help in this process.
- Workforce Planning - Recruit and develop future leaders. Increase minority and disability hires by 20 percent. Things change and need to change according to demands. We need to make better utilization of skills, no matter where they are. Census figures show that there is a significant increase in minorities in Nevada. We need to use them to compliment our workforce.
- Other highlights - California Trail Interpretive Center. BLM Nevada has received funding from Congress for a design this year. We want to complete the project within three years. We will accomplish this in cooperation with our partners.
 - ▶ Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails Planning. We all need to focus on how we will manage this natural beauty. This means we need to manage with a vision so the same resources that are there today will be there tomorrow for future generations.

Abbey stressed that there are several projects and goals he did not mention but that doesn't mean they don't matter to BLM. We all have a wonderful opportunity to make a difference, but the window of opportunity is slowly closing on some issues. We can reduce the threat of noxious weeds and stop the spread of these weeds, we cannot eliminate them. We can provide clean water and air, protect cultural sites, enhance recreational experiences, and provide alternative sources for energy. Abbey stressed to RAC members to remember that this is all within our capability, but it is going to require us to work closer together and dedicate our time on these important issues.

Abbey opened up discussion to questions.

- One RAC member commented that as the RACs endorse new regulations for access to public lands, he has noticed private landowners are denying access to their lands and that BLM doesn't want to confront these property owners. He would like to see BLM take a hard stand for the public to get access to their public lands. Abbey responded that is excellent issue. Another RAC member commented that private land owners work very hard for their private land and it is their privilege to lock it off. BLM should go to them and offer to trade land for access. Believes public is their worst enemy as far as health of the range. Abbey believes the issues are with traditional public access. Another RAC member stated that he unlocked area to let public through. People locking up property in Nevada are from back east. They lock it up and shut people out. This

needs to be resolved. There needs to be a balance between acquisitions and disposals. Can RACs help develop some guidelines?

- ▶ A RAC member commented that there is a lack of appetite for the County Commissioners to do anything about this issue too. Everyone needs to get engaged. Another RAC member commented that we need to put our emphasis on broken roads due to subdividing areas and then denying access to these areas.
- RAC member complimented BLM on such an active agenda for the next five years. He believes it is important for the public to understand that BLM has many issues to manage—the most important is health of land. Disposal of land is not just a matter of acres. BLM needs to look at water resources; what happens when you dispose of lands.
- BLM is looking for a 95 percent accuracy for records. Shouldn't they be looking at a 99 percent accuracy?
- New employees. BLM's trend is to hire specialists. They also need broad educated people so they can look at all things going on in an area and to become very knowledgeable about areas. Loss of institutional memories is going to be very costly when the "older generation" retires. Many young employees won't understand the decisions that are being made now. Good to hire people with great education, but sometimes they don't have common sense. People need to understand the health of the land, otherwise they may do more harm than good with the best of intentions.
- Native seeds - What are specific plans? Where is BLM going to get money? Meg Jensen, Deputy State Director, Lands and Planning answered that for the initial seed bank project BLM received \$287,000. Part of this money is going to the university lab in Utah that will develop strains. BLM is also working with UNR on specific Nevada grass species for production. Right now, there is not even enough seed to provide to growers.
 - ▶ The question was asked if growers be given a guaranteed market? Jensen said that is one of the issues they are dealing with. They need an incentive. The acres burned each year varies significantly. Abbey noted that there are other places where we need seed besides burned areas. One RAC member commented that some of the problem with potential growers is providing seeds and ensuring grower will be able to sell the seed. Another member stated that everyone has specific seeds in mind. A lot can be collected on public lands. One of the groups he is associated with has had a 15 percent success rate in reseeded mountains. When they collect local seeds they have about a 70 percent success rate. BLM needs to address this issue in the planning process when the opportunity arises. One RAC member agreed that we are our own worst enemy for impacting the land. We all need to educate the public. Truly believes we will be learning as we teach.
 - ▶ Dr. Glimp, RAC member commented that UNR is working closely with BLM on the native seed program. This is a very important issue today (e.g., Indian rice grass - none is available today from seeds in Nevada). Challenge is we don't know ourselves how to grow seeds. Must have input from farmers on how to produce, cultivate, etc. Can be very rewarding and a good

alternative crop in Nevada. Need program to regulate seed prices. Need a floor price and a seed bank to maintain a reasonable price.

- Frank-Churchill commented that there is interest in Indian tribes to acquire some of their traditional use lands (10 million acres). Looking where traditional grazing was. Hope all parties can sit down and negotiate. Want to give RACs heads up.

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 11:50 p.m. RAC members sat together by Pod to discuss issues of mutual interest. Meeting re-convened at 1:15 p.m.

RAC Review and Comment on **Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Acquisitions** - Presentation by Mike Dwyer, Project Manager

- Dwyer presented brief overview of SNPLMA (see attachment 3).
 - ▶ Land acquisitions - BLM consults with other agencies and the public on proposed acquisitions. The Secretary of the Interior has approving authority for acquisitions.
 - ▶ Part of this process required transfer of 5,000 acres to McCarren Airport in Las Vegas. Existing water related rights of way were granted in perpetuity.
 - ▶ Annual report is in RAC members' packets. There is a list of strategic objectives he will discuss briefly.
 - ▶ Sales - Requires a joint selection process with local governments in the area. They determine how they want their communities to look. The project office conducts an auction every six months--every May and November. Properties that don't sell, go through the Government Services Administration Internet auctions. So far, they have held five auctions, sold about 148 parcels (2,500 acres) for \$124 million.
 - ▶ In May of 2001, they sold a 1,900-acre parcel in North Las Vegas. The deadline for payment in full was November 5, and the purchaser paid the balance, which amounted to \$40 million. Monies targeted for Tahoe acquisitions are \$18 million.
- Dwyer went over guidelines for proposed acquisitions. Have gone through two rounds of acquisitions.
 - ▶ The Act provides for the sales money to be invested. To date, \$2.6 million in interest has been earned, which exceeds project administration costs.
- Round 3 acquisitions - Nomination period closed in September. They received 38 acquisitions. Less than one-half of these proposals came from the Federal government.
- Total estimated value of proposed properties is \$120 million. In November 2003, the Project Office will have another big parcel for sale in Henderson. For now, smaller parcels are being sold for about \$13.6 million. Competition will be intense this year for projects. Would like RACs to give him list of priorities for acquisition.
- Important to put priority lists out every year to keep everyone concerned informed.

- Just initiated a two-month public comment period on Round 3 acquisitions. Will put together preliminary recommendation in January, which will be made public in February. Then they will go out for another two-month public comment period. Executive Committee makes final recommendations to Secretary Norton.
- The Project Office will be launching a new web page in early December. It will have detailed descriptions for all properties up for acquisition.

Dwyer asked if there were any questions.

- Hiatt asked if there was a provision for purchasing options for landowners whose properties are far down the list. Dwyer said the Conservation Fund helps out by buying lands that need protection. They purchase land out right or purchase an option.
- Leshendok asked if there is any option to use some of this money for AML or reclamations. Dwyer answered there is a possibility that money under capital improvements could be used. There is no definition of capital improvement in the Act, but capital improvements are limited to Clark County.
- Tomera asked if money can be used to clean up weeds? Dwyer answered no. Management of the property would be considered management of the resources, but cannot use SNPLMA money.
- Nappe asked how many lands are on hold because of differences in the appraisal? Dwyer answered that letters of intent have been issued on all properties on the Round 1 list and the top 3 on the Round 2 list. There are two properties in Round 1 that have boundary issues that must be resolved before purchase.
- Nappe asked if the Project Office was going to integrate rounds? Dwyer stated that they have a matrix, an integration of a priority list and a financial list. It gives them an idea on where they are with the money. You can find it on their web page.
- Hiatt asked in dealing with clean up of properties, do you look at stewardship by groups to help take care of projects; people who would live in places and keep up the property. Dwyer stated that they are looking at this type of partnership with UNLV for the Walking Box Ranch outside of Searchlight.
- Nappe asked that when there is a problem with ranking on the list, can you move down the list to another property. Dwyer answered yes, the agency that nominated the property can put it on hold until issues are resolved. Then it comes back in at the same priority it was at when it was put on hold.

- Helton stated that some of these issues the Mojave-Southern RAC discussed at great length. He noticed that at last Thursday's sale BLM offered smaller parcels that the local government wanted to see sold, but due to September 11 events, there was grave uncertainty. They still sold 26 parcels at 37 percent over market value. This sale also set a record for the highest price paid per acre at \$426,531.
- Etchegoyhen commented that he would like to see the working group consider giving more points to properties that don't require much maintenance. Conservation easements are a good way to accomplish this. Dwyer said the Secretary brought up the issue of priority given for conservation easements. This is a good thing to have the RACs look at.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Mary Bennington - Carson River Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy. She read a written statement showing her support for two conservation easements submitted to the Nature Conservancy (see attachment 4). She asked RAC members to review these applications (see attachment 5) to fill in the flood plain. Bennington asked the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC to consider voting for the conservation easements.

Colleen Hemingway Bacon - Trust for Public Land Consultant/Project Manager. Hemingway Bacon spoke in support of the conservation easements. She explained where open space already exists. Some open space provides a gateway from California to Nevada (see attachment 5, page 14 - wetlands). The Conservancy's goals are to purchase development rights between the two rivers (see page 34). This will provide for wildlife. The connections between the open space will try to complete patchwork of properties. This will benefit lots of river property (e.g., Adams Ranch, Bing property and River Fork Ranch). These properties are all in the flood plain. Recreational opportunities are included in the handout. Bacon asked RAC members to look through the package of proposals. If they have any questions, please ask her or Bennington. There are over 4,000 acres of conservation easements.

Questions from RAC members:

- Who will be the holder of the property? Federal government will co-hold in perpetuity.
- What does easement provide for in the future? There is a provision that states it remain in agricultural production and cannot be developed. Singlaub commented that the owner maintains water rights or sells with the property. These lands become more valuable as large properties sell for development.
- The proposal is for some 4,000 acres, a portion of that is River Fork Ranch which is already owned by The Nature Conservancy.
 - Bennington stated this will be donated to The Nature Conservancy over the next 8 years. Money received from conservation easements goes towards restoration of the ranch. This is a way for them to add money into the fund for the ranch. There are extraordinary wetlands on this ranch. Also public trails, that they hope to use to highlight the wetlands. Good portion of the area is leased to the ranch for grazing. Lease value is worked off in improvements.

- Edwards asked if they have a priority? Bennington answered no. Important thing is to put in as many properties as possible. This is a viable way to help save property. It's important now to get the ball rolling.
- Swanson asked if this will preserve the river or it will slip away forever. Rivers will heal themselves, but won't heal themselves if houses live on banks. Rivers cannot heal if there is flooding caused by developments.
- Hiatt stated that agriculture will be only allowable use, but vineyards won't be used. He cautioned Bennington and Bacon that agriculture is in the eye of the beholder. Each conservation easement is unique to the property it is for.

Report on Governor's Sage Grouse Working Group - Meg Jensen, Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, Lands & Planning

The Sage Grouse Conservation Planning effort is an integral part of the Great Basin Restoration Initiative. Jensen made initial presentation on sage grouse at last year's Tri-RAC meeting. This year she wants to give an update and explain the role BLM will take on. Several years ago people became concerned about dramatic drop in sage grouse numbers. To avoid listing of the sage grouse, The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies got together to discuss what could be done. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding that directed the states to take the lead on conservation planning for the sage grouse. In August 2000, Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn convened a team that included a diverse assemblage of folks in federal, state and local governments, interested citizens, and representatives of constituency groups (approximately 25 members) to form the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Planning Team. This labor intensive process took over about 16 months. The Governor had a ceremony November 6 to celebrate completion of the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy Plan. All RAC members should have received a letter from the Governor inviting them to a meeting to form regional groups to work on the next phase of the plan. The goals of the strategy plan are to treat 250,000 acres of land for sage grouse habitat and to establish at least 6 local conservation planning teams which will work to develop local conservation plans by December 2002. Nevada Indian tribes may develop conservation plans for individual or groups of Tribal areas.

November 28 is the kick-off meeting in Winnemucca. The Governor hopes to bring everyone together that is interested in helping with local conservation planning efforts. The model for the local working groups is the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group Sagegrouse "pod." Hankins has been a part of this group. Once plans are complete, the federal agencies will need to integrate conservation planning with land use plans.

- How can RACs help? Urges members to participate in individual conservation planning efforts throughout Nevada and help BLM complete integration with land use plans. Farman added the importance of Federal agency participation. Important that BLM and the Forest Service (FS) be represented and help in the development of maps and other documentation. This effort is going to require tremendous collaboration.

- Hiatt commented that 250,000 acres is quite an initiative. Is the State looking to the Federal government for money. Jensen said that with fire rehabilitation, BLM has rehabilitated more than 250,000 acres each year.
- Swanson stated the importance in getting ecological bases right and knowing what we are doing for each site. He believes we can map areas better now. Is there going to be continuing support to work with Natural Resource Conservation Service to help make process better? Jensen said that was a great suggestion. Abbey commented that these days we have to partner with everyone out there to achieve our goals. The Natural Resource Conservation Service is doing some great things and BLM needs to do better.
- Frank-Churchill stressed the importance of the uses for sage grouse for Indians. Still bless children with sage grouse. They hunt them in the spring but kill only roosters. Indians believe each animal is placed in a specific place for its use. Not sure how other tribes are working with group, but his tribe would like to work with these groups. Do have concerns for this bird. We can all strive to make it work.
- Nappe asked what can BLM do to assure that the land is not damaged again. Prior damage has been from grazing. Have you discussed allowable uses of land. Jensen answered that this is a valid concern. Governor's group has not addressed that concern yet but that is an issue that will have to be tackled by local conservation planning groups after treatment.
 - ▶ Kolkman wanted to point out that there has been a tremendous amount of support from the livestock industry. Many want to be proactive. They have made tremendous strides in the northeastern part of the state. Industry is showing large support as part of restoration effort.
 - ▶ Falen stated he was in a meeting where it was stated that there is no evidence that shows it was overgrazing that caused all the damage.
 - ▶ Swanson stated that one could certainly find a whole list of causes for lower sage grouse populations. He hopes guidelines won't get in the way of doing better work.
- Jensen stated that BLM has issued guidelines as far as best management practices. These guidelines should be used as a tool kit.
- Glimp commented that this is one area on which he has seen a lot of research, and the number one problem is predation, which is not discussed in report. What will be done about that? Jensen commented that she has heard much debate on the whole issue.

Jensen stressed that the meeting on November 28 is statewide meeting to organize local groups. There will be six planning teams around the state. Nappe asked who was going to pay for staffing and secretarial support? Jensen said that the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) is in the process of hiring one to two positions. Groups will have to get together to discuss how to support teams. The Northeast group has received \$50,000 in funding from industry (mines and Nevada Cattlemen's Association).

Revised 3809 Regulations (see attachment 6) - Tom Leshendok, Deputy State Director, Minerals Management

BLM has been revising the 3809 regulations for 5 years. When BLM came out with new regulations earlier this year, the mining industry filed suit against the Department of Interior (DOI). They have until end of November to notify Solicitor of their intent [suit has been withdrawn].

- A comment was made that the most recent revisions did address irreparable harm to industry. Where they are going on that?
 - BLM did good job in addressing concerns, but more work is needed. Need to look to see if all National Academy of Sciences study recommendations were addressed.
- The question was asked if anyone from industry could give RAC members an opinion on whether the current 3809 regulations have done anything good? Leshendok answered that the amended 3809 regulations will become final Dec. 31 of this year.
 - Nothing in bonding has been changed. There are key performance standards for cyanide.
 - “Substantial irreparable harm” and “civil penalties” were removed.
- BLM would like public comment until Dec. 31. BLM is looking for comments from the RACs.
- Additional issues are additional financial guarantees; BLM/State relationships and delegation; and validity requirements - proposed plans on withdrawn lands; performance standards for cave resources.
- The purpose remains the same, but there are some major changes such as preventing unnecessary or undue degradation; coordination with State to avoid duplication; bonding required for notice level operations under five acres; a Plan of Operations required for all operations; deferral of program to State; and outcome based performance standards.
- There are three types of activity: (1) casual use, (2) notice level, and (3) plan level.
 - Existing notices may be extended after two years.
 - New notices require reclamation plan.
 - Regulations are in effect today, but amended regulations take effect on Dec. 31.
 - Changes when a plan of operations is required (on all mining activity greater than casual use); and
 - Existing and pending plans continue under terms and conditions of existing plan.
- The current Nevada BLM/Nevada Department of Environmental Protection Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are keys of cooperation and in avoiding duplication. Gaskin noted that both parties have been looking at existing MOU for a couple of years. They may revise existing MOU depending on outcome of the revised regulations.

- Release of financial guarantee needs a 30-day public notification prior to release.
- Ioli stated that they had discussed implementation of regulations. At that time, corporations were requested to submit a plan of operations every 3 years. When regulations were drafted it was clear there were no corporate guarantees. We need to take a look at each case.
- Hiatt asked Leshendok, of 27 bankruptcies, how many had bonding. Leshendok answered that twenty had money; others were corporate guarantees. They have collected from 12 and are in the process of collecting others. Probably missed some things when setting bonding amount 5 to 10 years ago because with some of these cases, BLM and State are coming up short to close out mines, but companies are coming up with additional monies.
 - ▶ Gaskin stated that in early bankruptcies they were proactive in retrieving monies to reclaim land. BLM now has some mines they have pulled bonds on. They are focusing on priorities for environmental issues such as water. Next they will go on to long term closure and reclamation.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Guidelines - Karen Boeger, Sierra Front Northwestern Great Basin RAC and Jon Muller, Northeastern Great Basin RAC (*Discussion on how the three RACs can work together to develop guidelines that provide necessary consistency across the state while allowing for local flexibility*)

- Hankins noted that in 1997, Kolkman identified significant concerns with OHV-created roads in the Duck Creek area located in the Ely District. Other field offices have seen similar problems. As a result of these concerns, Muller drafted guidelines for OHV use. Muller has put in a lot of time on the guidelines. The guidelines need additional work, but they are a good place to begin. The Sierra Front-Northwestern RAC has had additional discussions on OHV use.
- Boeger stated that the Northwestern Great Basin RAC formed a subcommittee to help BLM develop OHV management guidelines. She proposed that all three RACs form a subcommittee to develop OHV guidelines. They should be very broad. Each RAC member should have received a copy of the Susanville RAC guidelines. The purpose in sending these guidelines to RAC members is to accelerate the task of writing the guidelines. She hopes Abbey will instruct field managers that guidelines should be done shortly. We all need to ensure the use of OHVs will be controlled and managed to protect public lands and safety of users, but we are decades late.
- Muller commented that the second draft put upland rangeland sites into the Northeastern Great Basin's guidelines. He would like to see RACs address overuse by OHVs, but still allow the public to use the lands.
- Nappe asked Muller if this meant he is willing to chair committee and looking for volunteers. Muller replied yes. He said the individual RACs can discuss tomorrow morning. He would like variety of interests to be represented.

- ▶ Boeger stated that each RAC can decide who might participate on the committee. Believes we can accomplish in short order. Can decide tomorrow if each RAC wants to participate or go it alone.
- ▶ Garcia is going on whether they have support or not. King believes they need to consolidate the guideline development and not re-invent the wheel. They need to develop statewide committee.
- ▶ Maichle stated that they need boiler plate process from NEPA so they can all deal with it now.
- ▶ Nappe said her intention is not to make a statewide management plan. The process used for the Duck Creek Basin is what she envisions for all over the state. She suggests developing broad guidelines, then have local agencies develop travel plans.
- ▶ Muller noted that they need to develop guidelines on a case-by-case basis. Problems in each area will be unique.
- ▶ Parker noted that you can't enforce rules on one side and not the other. Under the National Park Service, if vehicle isn't licensed, it isn't allowed on public land. Park service will confiscate and ask questions later. BLM needs something in between. Muller wants everyone to bear in mind this only deals with public land administered by BLM.
- ▶ Kolkman stated that OHV use is a very frustrating issue to him. There should be something they can do that is very simple and quit debating the issue. There should be a fundamental ethic that could save abuse.
- ▶ Abbey believes it is a worthy goal to have consensus across the state because we do have degradation occurring. We discuss impacts caused by grazing, etc, but a lot of impacts now occur from OHV use. Abbey suggested the RACs defer until tomorrow.

Forest Service Highlights - Bill VanBruggen. Legislation is being developed to stabilize forest receipts. In Nevada, Bob Vaught wants the FS to participate in existing RACs. This has been a good day for him to listen to BLM issues.

Scott Bell - District Ranger in Elko.

- Resolution has been passed to replace bridge. Issues RACs are visiting about today are certainly issues the FS is dealing with too.
- Going to start their plan revisions process next year.
- They are reorganizing and have put forest staff officers back on staff.
- The FS is very involved in the National Fire Plan. They are working on reclamation and potential fuels projects that tie in sage grouse efforts. Makes sense to work collaboratively to get things done on the ground.
- They have treated about 2,500 acres of noxious weeds (treated about 80-90 percent of tall white top known to exist on FS land in Nevada.
- National roadless initiative is on hold for now, as they want additional comments from public.

Randy Sharpe-FS-Newly appointed Natural Resources staff officer for Humboldt/Toiyabe was introduced.

- Jarbridge road is moving forward in a positive way.
- Outside Las Vegas Foundation - FS is participating and they are excited about some of the projects.
- National Fire Plan - Received more funding, with much of it going to Nevada Division of Forestry. They also gave some funds to landowners for lost fences; to the State Economic Development Corporation to look at projects associated with fuels reduction; to pay for a group of young people to conduct defensible space inspections. These were the fire education “missionaries” that BLM sponsored.

Abbey stated he would like to hear from returning members on **what worked well and what needs improvement.**

- Major improvement is quality of information RAC is getting from BLM. Need to improve statewide communication between each other. Abbey commented that BLM needs to continue to stay focused and get materials out in a timely manner so the RACs can review for discussion.
- Hiatt suggested the RACs work best when problems can be concisely defined and worked out.
- Muller suggested that the configuration of the Pods needs to be looked at. Abbey stated that charges would require a revision of the BLM regulations, but he is willing to take recommendations back to the Secretary.
- Glad FS is attending and participating at meetings and that they are receptive. Looking forward to working with FS.
- Farman suggested it might be helpful to learn about what other RACs in other states have done.
- Maichle emphasized that it is important to keep to the dates of upcoming meetings once they are announced.
- Nappe believes we are facing tremendous threats to the environment such as global warming and drought. How we going to face that whole implication. Established rights on lands and concerned how we use lands and how will we survive with all the noxious weeds. Knows BLM is addressing, but people aren't in their daily lives.
 - Swanson appreciates comments. Concerned RAC is not spending enough time on most important issues. Address too much on fire and not enough time on other issues. Cheatgrass is great concern, but there are other weeds they can get rid of and we need to address these issues. Need to do it right the first time. Water quality is important.

- White asked if it would be useful for resource technicians to participate in the meetings to see what RACs are up to? Abbey answered that one of the things BLM does, if office hosts meeting, is to invite employees. BLM needs to decide which employees could benefit from discussions.
- Abbey agrees with Nappe that we are losing ground. We can make a difference. We should be spending time on issues of substance. First and foremost issue is the drought. Issues we will be facing are lack of moisture and economic impacts. One thing BLM has tried with FS's help is to try to find alternative sites for grazing for ranchers with burned ground. Industry has stepped up and offered to their neighbors lands to graze on. We are in 3rd year of drought and we need to start tightening belt on what actions we will take to salvage operations in Nevada. We are not getting re-growth from rehabilitation sites that we need to sustain biodiversity. Abbey hopes that RACs will discuss some of these issues, as he doesn't have all the answers. We are going to have to work together to find answers.

There being no further business, State Director Abbey adjourned meeting at 4:40 p.m.

STATEWIDE RAC MEETING

November 9

The three RACs met individually to elect officers, establish agendas and meeting dates for next 12 months on Friday morning (see attached minutes from each RAC meeting).

At 1 p.m. State Director Abbey began Tri-RAC meeting. He asked each RAC to report on their proposed agenda topics for FY 2002:

Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin - Jacques Etchegoyhen, Chair

- Quarterly reports from BLM on what is working for fire rehabilitation;
- Weeds - what can RACs do to help;
- Participate in process of deciding which lands will be disposed of or acquired;
- Drought - serious issues, what we anticipate and what our brainstorming comes up with; how does that affect land management;
- Issues to take action on – Walker River Basin EIS (alternatives, issues);
- Get more into the detail for Knot Creek allotment; acquisition and some disposal;
- Alternative energy projects and the significant effect they will have on Nevada;
- Pine Nut Mountains plan;
- OHV subcommittee will report back to RAC. Appreciate efforts of Boeger and others; and
- More information on sage grouse issues and regular updates;

Northeastern Great Basin - Vince Garcia, Chair

- Would like more communication among RACs;
- Meeting schedule
January 24-Elko
April 25-Battle Mountain
August 15-16 in Ely

They set their agenda so other RACs can participate. Decided they wanted to be more informed of other RACs' issues;

- OHV guidelines - Their concern is do they want to go statewide? They are stumped on where to go. Discussed if they should look at what other RACs have done;
- Noxious weeds, native seeds, grass banks, and pinyon and juniper habitat. Thank Hudson Glimp for heading up committee;
- Minerals and mining standards and guidelines. Want to make sure field managers have some guidance for 3809 regulations;
- Land exchanges - Will take a look at guidelines developed in the Mojave-Southern region;
- Sage grouse - will take one step at a time. Will see what direction the meeting takes at the end of this month; and

- Drought conditions, and wild horses and burros and rangeland conditions.

Gaskin stated they are hoping to help improve implementation of 3809 regulations. They will look at resources available and see if they can make it easier. Abbey recommends they consider for statewide policy.

Mojave-Southern Great Basin - Jerry Helton, Chair

- Field trip is planned for the Nevada Test site; trip to Ely to see the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project and other issues. Kolkman does wonderful job of showing us various issues on public lands;
- Go to Austin to see Yomba tribe's cultural issues;
- Meeting schedule:
January 17-18 Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center
March 7-8 Las Vegas
June Ely
August 23 Visit Yomba tribe;
- GBRI;
- Established sub-group for OHV. Patrick Chicas and Bob Maichle from this RAC will get together at the state level;
- Subcommittee to participate on sage grouse issue. John Hiatt and Mark Ioli will participate in planning meeting in Ely;
- Guidelines for pinyon and juniper issues;
- Noxious weeds;
- NCA guidelines for Red Rock Canyon;
- Power generation issues. At least 16 plant proposals have been received so far;
- Criteria to evaluate wind energy and its impacts;
- Work on Native American issues – Burial issues; governmental relations; additional lands for Ely Duckwater tribe;
- ACEC issues and allotments;
- Land exchange issues in Spring Valley;
- Wild horse and burro issues in certain areas;
- For Field Manager's Update they would like to see:
Establishing AMLs for wild horses and burros;
Implementation of Standard and guidelines;
Tonopah issue - Four vacant allotments–Discussion on how they can be used in the future; and
Fire use planning on rehabilitation areas;

For Ely meeting:

- GBRI issues. Both RACs want to work on that issue;

- Grass Banks and the issues associated with them;
- Issues with Native Americans. Great time to address these issues;
- OHV decision-making process (Hankins commented on OHV use. How do you work with it constructively. Do you use existing roads and protect resources);
- Sage grouse-views as part of GBRI;
- Vegetation management - Noxious weeds and cheatgrass. Both were added to important topics;
- Minerals and energy are both very important. Discussion is broadening to power plants. Decided to stay with promoting consistency in BLM;

Comments from some of the Field Managers:

John Singlaub, Carson City

- Walker Lake and Pine Nut plan. If he can get some get input on alternatives, he believes these are the key issues for this RAC. Other things are background info.

Mark Morse, Las Vegas

- Grouped a lot of issues in Las Vegas that were laid out as power projects;
- Timing of meetings sets themselves up for what will be addressed;
- Thanks RAC for taking on issues.

Terry Reed, Winnemucca

- RAC serves as major sounding board for various activities. They are dealing with NCA wilderness, of which they set up a subgroup to devote a lot of time to this issue;
 - OHV guidelines-statewide;
 - Feedback on fire rehabilitation, and advice on what to do next time;
 - Better advice on range management and other issues; and
 - Managers need to be careful to have good balance of items presented
- Boeger asked for clarification as to what the intent is for statewide OHV subcommittee. Abbey responded that he would like leadership in drafting OHV guidelines. He wants statewide guidelines on OHV—not individual RAC guidelines. Muller can compile all info from all RACs and send to Abbey to review. Abbey wants to be sure he has input from all RACs.
 - ▶ Boeger wants to set date and get started. What do other RACs think. Maichle will participate as long as Chicas is available. He would like to see what Utah did. They need to do it right. There are certain areas where they need to be specific.
 - ▶ Abbey asked for participants on guidelines. Muller suggested he get input from everyone, compile ideas then get together in December to start to put guidelines together.
 - ▶ Abbey stated that the purpose of this to have statewide guidelines. He wants to designate individuals today so they are working toward consensus on OHV use. Believes guidelines will part of sage grouse plan. Need to better manage the duplicate roads that are being formed.

RACs need to collect all information, then set a time to meet afterwards. Includes anyone who has an interest in this. He will digest info from subcommittee.

- ▶ Boeger stated that Tribble in Ely office has quite a collection of guidelines from other states. Can we get this from him. Kolkman agreed. Muller will get info from Tribble.

Abbey commented on other projects:

- May have need for subcommittee on sage grouse but Abbey will wait for now and see what happens.
- Another topic he would like to track are 3809 guidelines. If we have inconsistency, he would like RACs to provide consistent advice. Asked Gaskins to pursue, but promised other RACs they would share info.
- Drought may be another issue that they may have to get together as a statewide RAC to discuss issues.

Abbey asked for any comments or suggestions.

- Ioli asked what would it take to change PODS? Abbey said at a minimum it would require changing the regulations and the Charters. He decided not to take this on this year because of change of administration. Tabled until people were in place such as BLM Director.
- Abbey extended his deepest gratitude for the dedication of each RAC.
- Tomera wanted to deeply thank Bob Stewart for all his efforts in putting together a great meeting and all his work throughout his career with BLM. [Stewart retired November 30.]

There being no further business, State Director Abbey adjourned meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Date Approved:

Approved by:

Minutes provided by Debra Kolkman, BLM Nevada State Office, Office of Communications

Attachments:

- 1 - Fiscal Year 2001 Accomplishments (19 pp)
- 2 - Achieving the Vision (24 pp)
- 3 - SNPLMA Round 3 Nominated Properties (4 pp)
- 4 - RAC Testimony by Mary Bennington (2 pp)
- 5 - SNPLMA Acquisition Nominations (64 pp)
- 6 - Status of Mining Operations on Public Lands in Nevada and Revised 3809 Regulations (8 pp)
- 7 - Minutes from individual RAC meetings

List of Attendees
Statewide RAC Meeting
November 8-9, 2001

Mojave-Southern RAC

Jerry Helton - Vice Chairperson
Mark N. Ioli
Billie Gayle Young
Dr. John E. Hiatt
Steve Mellington
Barbara Callihan
Maurice Frank-Churchill
Robert Maichle
Dr. Steve Parker

Mojave-Southern RAC Members not Present:

Marta Agee
Dr. Colleen Beck
Patrick Chicas
Ben Patterson
Thalia Dondero

Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC Members Present:

Jacques Etchegoyhen
Susie Askew
Karen Boeger
John Falen
Jerry Hepworth
Hugh Judd
Robert Kautz
Tina Nappe
Tebeau Piquet
Bennie Romero for November 9
Sherm Swanson
Larie Trippet
Mark Farman

Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC Members Not Present:

William Roullier
Gerry Emm

Northeastern Great Basin RAC Members Present:

Bill W. Upton
Duane Erickson
Bob Edwards
Dave Tattam
Jon L. Muller
Kathryn Ataman
Patsy Tomera
Scott Egbert
Vince Garcia
Donald King
Hudson Glimp
John Ellison
Jeff White
Dave Gaskin

Northeastern Great Basin RAC Members Not Present:

Hank Vogler

Bureau of Land Management Staff Present:

Bob Abbey	Nevada State Director
Jean Rivers-Council	Associate State Director
Jo Simpson	Chief, Office of Communications, Nevada State Office
Meg Jensen (November 8 only)	DSD, Resources, Lands and Planning, Nevada State Office
Tom Leshendok (November 8 only)	Natural Resource Specialist, Nevada State Office
Bob Stewart	Public Affairs Specialist, Nevada State Office
Debra Kolkman	Public Affairs Specialist, Nevada State Office
Mark Morse	Las Vegas Field Manager
Phil Guerrero	Public Affairs Officer, Las Vegas Field Office, Coordinator
	Mojave-Southern RAC
Kirsten Cannon	Public Affairs Specialist, Las Vegas Field Office

Diane Murray	Public Affairs Specialist, Battle Mountain and Winnemucca field offices
Jerry Smith (November 9 only)	Battle Mountain Associate Field Manager
John Singlaub	Carson City Field Manager
Terry Reed	Winnemucca Field Manager
Jaime Thompson	Writer/Editor, Winnemucca Field Office
Nancy Thompson	Field Manager's Secretary, Winnemucca Field Office
Mark Struble	Public Affairs Specialist, Carson City Field Office, Coordinator, Sierra Front-Northwestern RAC
Gene Kolkman	Ely Field Manager
Jeff Weeks	Assistant Mgr. Non-Renewable Resources, Ely Field Office
Chris Hanefeld	Public Affairs Officer, Ely Field Office
Helen Hankins	Elko Field Manager
Mike Brown	Public Affairs Specialist, Elko Field Office and Coordinator, Northeastern Great Basin RAC
Mike Dwyer (November 8 only)	SNPLMA Project Manager